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SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Recovery of Anax junius from a glacier in the Sierra Nevada (Odonata: Aeschnidae).—On August 16, 1972, while traversing the Lyell Glacier in Yosemite National Park with Charles Dickson, ranger-naturalist at Tuolumne Meadows, I discovered several specimens of a dragonfly, Anax junius (Drury), frozen into the ice at an altitude of 12,200 feet. The winter of 1971–72 had been unusually mild, resulting in one of the lightest snowpacks of this century. As a consequence, many of the Sierran glaciers retreated, and surfaces of ice deep within them were exposed. These particular dragonflies were undoubtedly swept onto Mount Lyell by upslope winds to perish on the glacier, where they have remained embedded for uncounted years.

R. W. Garrison of the Dept. of Entomological Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley, who confirmed the identification, also noted that one of the females was teneral and was therefore probably trapped on the glacier during her first week of life, possibly on her maiden flight.

Anax junius is a very widespread species, occurring throughout North and Central America. During previous summers in the high Sierra, I have taken numerous specimens in Dana Meadows at Tioga Pass, where it undoubtedly breeds in subalpine lakes there.—R. P. PAPP, Department of Entomological Sciences, Universitv of California, Berkeley 94720.